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October 30, 2001

Mr. James Connaughton  
Chair, Council on Environmental Quality  
Executive Office of the President  
17<sup>th</sup> and G street, NW  
Washington, DC 20503

Attn: Executive Order 13212  
Interagency Task Force

Dear Mr. Connaughton:

We are responding to the CEQ Federal Register Notice of August 20, 2001 seeking comments on Executive Order 13212 establishing a new federal interagency Energy Task Force. This Task Force is charged with working with and monitoring federal agencies' efforts to expedite their review of permits or other actions necessary to accelerate the completion of energy related projects. Southern Company strongly supports the establishment of this Task Force and its activities. With recent events, it is more critical than ever to ensure that no obstacle exists to prevent the United States from maintaining a secure, reliable and environmentally acceptable supply of energy. We look forward to providing specific input into the deliberations of the Task Force and the completion of its work.

As members of the Edison Electric Institute, we would like to support their more detailed comments responding to the Federal Register Notice. In addition we would like to highlight the following points:

- The Task Force should closely examine impediments to the expansion of existing energy production capacity in the United States as well as the construction of new facilities. Many opportunities to expand existing plants or increase production are hamstrung by complex and burdensome permitting requirements.
- In considering the roles of various federal agencies and third parties in reviewing and approving energy production and transmission facilities, the Task Force should consider ways to enforce time limits on the review and acceptance of license conditions and intervention in proceedings.
- Even though this is an effort to examine federal activities, the Task Force should at least examine and highlight state issues, especially the coordination of regulatory programs among regions that might be impeding the addition or expansion of energy production and transmission facilities.

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Again, we look forward to providing more detailed input into the work of the Task Force and appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Charles H. Goodman". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".